

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 have been amended to delete reference numerals, remove multiple dependencies, and reflect other minor changes. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-19 are pending in this application.

Applicants wish to point out that this is a U.S. national phase of International patent application no. PCT/EP2004/051506, published under no. WO 2005/013021, and contains an International Preliminary Report on Patentability (IPRP). A copy of the IPRP is enclosed. The IPRP contains amendments made during the International Stage that must be considered prior to considering this First Preliminary Amendment. Examination of the pending claims on their merits is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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